

danger. But when we look at facts, we are made to believe, at least to suspect, some other reason for raising this formidable armament, in the heart of the county. The Regulators did not threaten the COURT: It is true they handled a few Lawyers, Clerks, Sheriffs, Bombs, &c, with some *Roughness*; but they never imagined that hereby they INSULTED *His Majesty's Superior-Court of Justice*. When the Officers, and Lawyers, injured the People, the Gov. told them the laws of their Country were their security, and that they had their actions. Why did not the Gov. tell the Lawyers &c, the same story, when the People, robb'd, insulted, mocked, and every way abused by petty foggers, and a "swarm of catterpillers," [75.] gave these pests of society the demerit of their crimes. In this case the Laws were not sufficient without Guards, and Main-Guards, and Centries, &c. This one fact might support a suspicion that the Gov. had something more in view, in raising Troops, and garrisoning Towns, than merely to defend the Court from Insults, &c. But to give a little more light to his Excellency's conduct, we will subjoin the following anecdote; viz. In Salisbury, a little before the Court, orders issued to raise Troops, for the purpose, as was pretended, of guarding the Court; at the Court these Troops were so disposed of as that no Man could come to the Court without passing Centinels, by whom every Man, whom they suspected, was examined what his business was: and all who "dared to own" "that it was to complain of Officers", were ill used by the Guards, and threatened, and put in fear: so that many, by this means, were driven home; others, who disregarded the threats and insults of the soldiers, were ordered out of Town by the commanding officer, and obliged to go at a few minutes warning; in short, none were allowed to stay in Town but those who were under Recognizance, or otherways bound to appear at Court. And of these it is said, "that they could not get an attorney to appear for them, unless they gave bonds for sums from fifty to three hundred pounds." And, indeed, the accounts given of the whole conduct of this Court, are exceeded by nothing since the DAYS OF THE STAR-CHAMBER; except it be by the following fact, exhibited in the county, where Fanning had the direction of affairs.

[76.] On the Morning of the second day of May 1768 about twelve Men all arm'd with guns and pistols, enter'd the house of Mr. Herman Husband, thro' the back door;²⁴ One of them immediately

²⁴ The following account of Husbunds prosecution is based on *An Impartial Relation* p. 41ff.